

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] In the construction of oil or gas wells it is usually necessary to construct long drill pipes. Due to the length of these pipes, sections or stands of pipe are progressively added to the pipe as it is lowered into the well from a drilling platform. In particular, when it is desired to add a section or stand of pipe the string is usually restrained from falling into the well by applying the slips of a spider located in the floor of the drilling platform. The new section or stand of pipe is then moved from a rack to the well center above the spider. The threaded pin of the section or stand of pipe to be connected is then located over the threaded box of the pipe in the well and the connection is made up by rotation therebetween. An elevator is connected to the top of the new section or stand and the whole pipe string is lifted slightly to enable the slips of the spider to be released. The whole pipe string is then lowered until the top of the section is adjacent the spider whereupon the slips of the spider are re-applied, the elevator disconnected and the process repeated.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] In order to make up or break out a connection of ~~modern~~ modern drill pipe or casing, high torque must be supplied over a large angle. This angle is sometimes six times higher than a conventional wrenching tong can supply. In order to overcome this, the wrenching tong must grip and wrench the tubular several times to tighten or break the threaded connection fully. This has a number of disadvantages. The action of gripping and releasing the pipe repeatedly can damage the pipe surface. Due to the high costs associated with the construction of oil and gas wells, time is critical, and the repeated clamping and unclamping of the wrenching tong greatly increases the time taken to attach each new section or stand of tubulars. It also has the effect that the torque provided is discontinuous, increasing the difficulty of accurately controlling the torque with respect to the angle turned.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] Preferably the first tong is a back-up tong and the second tong is a wrenching tong. Both tongs are preferably substantially cylindrical, and an axial passage is preferably provided therethrough for receiving ~~[[tubular-s]]~~ tubulars. A passage is preferably provided from a peripheral edge to the axial passage of each tong to allow the introduction of tubulars into the axial passage. The pinion is preferably located at or near the periphery of the second tong. A motor may be provided on the second tong and coupled to the or each pinion.

Please replace paragraph [0077] with the following amended paragraph:

[0077] Figure 13 illustrates an apparatus which can be used in association with a tong arrangement 49 to connect and disconnect a tool such as a drill bit to and from a length of tubular such as a drill pipe. The apparatus comprises a basket 50 which is arranged in use to be placed on the floor of a drilling rig. The basket 50 has an opening in the top thereof for receiving a tool 51 which is to be connected to a length of tubular 52. The opening has a shape which is complimentary to the shape of the tool 51 such that the tool is held securely in an upright position and rotation of the tool within the basket 50 is prevented.

Please replace paragraph [0079] with the following amended paragraph:

[0079] As shown in Figure 13, the tool 51 is first located in the basket 50. The length of tubular 52 is moved to a position over the tool (Figure 14) and is lowered to bring the box of the tubular into engagement with the externally threaded coupling of the tool 51. At this point, the tong arrangement is brought up to the tubular 52 with the jaws of the rotary and back-up tongs being fully opened, and the tong is placed around the tubular 52. The tong arrangement is then lowered within its frame, to a position in which the locking members 54 are received by the respective receiving slots 53 of the basket

50. In this position, the basket is locked to the back-up tong. The jaws of the rotary tong are then clamped against the tubular 52 and the rotary tong rotated, relative to the back-up tong, to tighten the threaded joint (Figure 15). The jaws of the rotary tong are then released, and the tong arrangement withdrawn from around the tubular. The tubular and the connected ~~tong~~ tool can then be lifted clear of the basket 50.